

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in view of the above Amendment and discussion below.

The apparatus of the presently claimed invention simulates an electrical sensor/actuator component by using a module which includes a model of the sensor/actuator component in order to generate interface signals in accordance with the component being simulated. This driver module also includes at least one signal interface associated with the respective connection pin driven by real time signals from the drive module wherein the interfaces generate, for each connection pin, one of the interface signals corresponding to the electrical signals of the sensor/actuator component.

Independent claim 1 has been modified to recite that there is an output stage with a four quadrant amplifier, which either receives or outputs power which corresponds to the now canceled claims 5 and 6. Independent claim 2 recites a plurality of signal interfaces and a main printed circuit board with an insertion location for each interface connection for each of the interface pins with one of the interface signals being provided for each insertion location. Claim 2 also specifies that each of the plurality of signal interfaces are of substantially identical construction to provide generation of logic signals for a data line as is supported in the specification at page 5, lines 22-26.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by Wagner as detailed at items 13-22 on pages 3-5 of the patent Office Action. Applicants' comments will be addressed to items 16 and 17 as each of claims 4, 5 and 6 have been canceled and incorporated into independent claims 1 or 2.

With respect to the rejection of original claim 4, the Examiner has indicated that the design of Wagner must be mounted on a printed circuit board and would include interface connections to any system that is needed to realize the design allowing connection to the interface pins in the components for receiving a transmitted signal to the system.

Applicants' submit that independent claim 2, which now contains the subject matter of claim 4, also recites that the plurality of signal interfaces are substantially identical in order to generate logic signals for a data line and that they are inserted in an insertion location for each interface connection for each of the interface pins. The reference to Wagner, in Figure 5 and the discussion of Figure 5, does not have the plurality of signal interfaces of identical modules for different pins of the interface and signal interfaces are not provided for each insertion location.

Therefore, it is submitted that amended independent claim 2 provides structure not shown or disclosed by the reference to Wagner.

With regard to independent claim 1, the reference to Wagner was cited for teaching a signal interface having an output stage that could function to output power or receive power referring to Figure 5 and page 488, column 1, lines 3-10 of Section A for stating that PSI and ABI signal interfaces perform signal conditioning which is applied to outputs from the controller or from the RTS, which, according to the Examiner signifies that this interface functions to output power or receive power.

This portion of the rejection with respect to claims 5 and 6 at item 17 on page 4 of the patent Office Action is traversed and it is submitted that claim 1, which now incorporates that subject matter of claims 5 and 6, patentable distinguishes over Wagner. The reference to Wagner does not have the amplifier or an output stage construction which is now part of independent claim 1 including the output stage for each signal interface which has a four quadrant amplifier to either receive or output power.

Therefore, claim 1 is also submitted as not anticipated by the reference to Wagner.

With respect to the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, Applicants have canceled claim 12 to obviate the rejection.

Concerning the objections to the specification at items 5-8 on page 2, Applicants' have made the appropriate changes to the specification without adding any new matter.

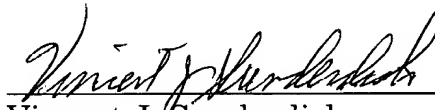
Dependent claims 3, 7-11 and 13-20 depend from and contain all of the limitations of either independent claim 1 or 2 and are also submitted as being allowable.

Therefore, in view of the distinguishing features between the claimed invention and the reference of record, Applicants respectfully request that his application containing claims 1-3, 7-11 and 13-20, including independent claims 1 and 2 be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038738.49512).

Respectfully submitted,



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